



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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STEP-FATHER PLEADS GUILTY IN CHILD'S DEATH

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that in Waco, 30-year-old John D. Mayer, Jr., of Ft. Hood, Texas, entered a guilty plea to charges relating to the death of his step-daughter. Mayer plead guilty to First Degree Murder on a Government Reservation and two counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse.

On April 1, 2003, Mayor's wife, a soldier in the United States Army, deployed to Iraq and left her three children in the care of her husband, Defendant John D. Mayer, Jr. According to the plea agreement, had this case proceeded to trial, the government was prepared to prove that on May 25, 2003, Defendant Mayer slammed his step-daughter's head against a linoleum floor at least twice because she would not hold her legs in the air while he changed her diaper. Mayer, a former Army medic knew that there was something wrong with the child because she became unresponsive. He told law enforcement officers he was afraid to seek medical attention for the child because of the bruises on the child's face that resulted from his abuse. He indicated to law enforcement that he searched the internet and looked at sites dealing with head injuries all of which indicated he should seek medical attention immediately for the child. Instead, he called his father in Louisiana and told him that he struck her head against the playpen. On his father's urging he took his three step-children to his father's home in Louisiana. His father immediately took the children to a hospital. A few days prior to the beating that resulted in the death of the young child, Mayer sexually abused the child and her minor sibling.

Sentencing is set for April 6, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Frazier.

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